
Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Fly Rod Selection for Beginners

Re: Fly Rod Selection for Beginners

Author: : PennKev

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URL:

Jake,

I think that is a pretty good summary of how a beginner should make their selection. Interestingly, you make no mention of action in your recommendations. Usually, people go off on a tangent about how a beginner *needs* a slow rod, slow rods are more forgiving, etc. et. Personally I think that is a bunch of rubbish that is either a result of someone trying to impose their own preferences or cover their own lack of skill. Here are the criteria on which I think a beginner should select a rod.

1) Price. There is no avoiding the cost factor and one must consider that a beginner is going to likely also need a reel, line, waders etc. The beginner needs to set a budget for each piece of equipment and thus will eliminate a lot of of the brand and model choices.

2) Length and Line Weight. Important, but I think that the majority of anglers are going to want to get a "general purpose" rod that will perform well in most situations. Thus, an 8' 6" - 9' rod for #5 or 6 line. If the angler is certain that most of his or her fishing will be on a certain size or type of creek, then a shorter or longer length and a different line weight might be called for. But I would still tend to lean toward the longest rod and heaviest lines practical. For instance a 7'6" 4 or 5wt for small stream fishing. Such a rod still has a good amount of versatility.

...and lastly...

3) Action, Feel, Ju-Ju, Hocus-Pocus. If you are a raw beginner you don't know how a fly rod is "supposed" to "feel." Period. You are starting from scratch.

There is nothing hard about learning to cast any action of rod as long as you get good, solid instruction. The worst thing that can happen is somebody else teaches you their bad habits. Buy a rod that suits the fishing conditions you will be encountering and get good casting instruction. Then, practice like crazy until it becomes second nature.

